

AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS.

The skin sent (No. P 7) from Yokohama is a young bird of this species.

AQUILA LAGOPUS.

The skins sent (Nos. 2666 and 1371) from Hakodadi are Rough-legged Buzzard Eagles.

CIRCUS SPILONOTUS.

The skin sent (No. 1491) from Hakodadi appears to be a young male of this species. The thighs are white streaked with chestnut; the primary-coverts and the secondaries are very grey; and there are obscure bars on all the tail-feathers, except the two centre ones. Another skin (P 8) from the main island appears to be a female in first plumage. The thighs are dark chestnut-brown, but all the tail-feathers are barred.

CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS.

Three examples from the main island of Japan are Common Marsh-Harriers, with almost white heads, unbarred tails, and dark chestnut thighs.

V.—Notes on three Guatemalan Birds.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

HAVING, through the kindness of Mr. Salvin, had the opportunity of examining the type specimens of the following species, it affords me much pleasure to offer a few remarks concerning them, my apology for doing so being that they possess peculiar interest to me on account of their relationship, real or supposed, to certain North-American forms with which I have been enabled to make a careful comparison of them.

1. CHRYSOMITRIS ATRICEPS, Salvin, P. Z. S. May 1863, p. 190; Ibis, 1866, p. 194.

This very distinct species is apparently most nearly related to *C. spinescens*, Bp., of New Granada. The coloration is very similar, but the olive-green tips to the greater wing-coverts and margins of the tertials are much broader, and the

lower parts of quite a different colour, being yellowish olive (in some specimens dull greyish) instead of bright oil-yellow. *C. spinescens* likewise has no dusky on the chin or throat, and has a proportionately much smaller bill.

With *C. notata* no comparison need be made, there being no close resemblance, except in the shape of the bill, which is similarly elongated and acute.

2. AMMODROMUS PETENICUS, Salvin, *ll. c.*

In general appearance this species resembles very closely the "*Coturniculus manimbe*, var. *dorsalis*" of Hist. N. Am. B. vol. i. p. 549, but is quite distinct. It differs in lacking the yellow supraloral spot, which in the present bird is greyish white, in having a distinct dusky line along each side of the throat, of which there is no trace in *C. dorsalis*, in the much paler yellow of the wing-edge, in the much darker colour of the lateral lower parts, and in the decidedly darker ground-colour of the dorsal surface. There are also other marked differences of coloration, but those mentioned are the most conspicuous. If the *Fringilla manimbe*, Licht., and its allies (*Coturniculus peruanus*, Bp., and the above-mentioned bird from the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, &c.) are rightly placed in the genus *Coturniculus*, the present bird would seem to belong there also, since it is very closely allied; but I doubt the propriety of referring any of these birds to either *Coturniculus* or *Ammodromus*, all the typical species of which are distinguished by their very narrow and finely acuminate rectrices.

3. SPIZELLA PINETORUM, Salvin, *ll. c.*

This species is far more closely related to *S. socialis* than to *S. pusilla*; indeed I cannot see why it should ever have been compared with the latter. The resemblance to *S. socialis* extends to all parts of the coloration, the pattern of which is identical in the two, but all the tints are much darker in *S. pinetorum*. Thus the crown is a very rich dark chestnut, much darker even than in the fully adult spring plumage of *Melospiza palustris*, while that of *S. socialis* is clear rufous, as much paler than the tint of *M. palustris* as

the latter is paler than that of *S. pinetorum*. All the other colours are darker in about the same proportion, though the difference in the colour of the lower parts is far less great.

S. socialis has a similar reddish bill at some seasons, so it is quite possible that this member may become entirely black in midsummer specimens of *S. pinetorum*.

VI.—On two new Species of Birds from Africa.

By Captain G. E. SHELLEY.

ON receiving Mr. Sharpe's seventh volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds,' I was enabled to feel confident that I had recently added to my collection examples of two species new to science. One I propose to name after Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, as a mark of the high merit I consider every ornithologist should recognize in his work.

1. APALIS SHARPII, sp. n.

General plumage slate-colour, passing into brownish black on the entire head and neck. Sides of the body ashy grey, fading into white down the centre of the lower breast and on the under tail-coverts; axillaries and under wing-coverts white. There are only four feathers present in the tail of this specimen; three of these are narrowly tipped with buffish white. Bill black; legs rufous-brown. Total length 4.2 inches, culmen 0.45, wing 1.8, tail 1.8, tarsus 0.7.

Hab. Gold Coast.

Euprinodes schistaceus, Cass., appears to be the nearest ally of this species, from which it may be readily distinguished by the brownish-black colouring of the head and neck, the darker deep slaty grey of the back, and the absence of any olive shade.

2. CRATEROPUS SQUAMULATUS, sp. n.

Upper parts brown, darker on the crown and nape, and gradually shading into black towards the forehead, where the feathers are narrowly edged with buffish white; the buff edges gradually become broader and browner towards the back of